

REMARKS

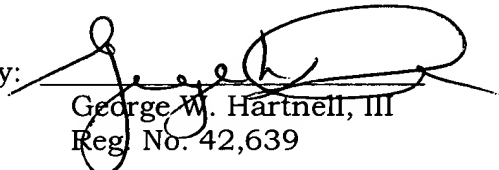
Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19-23, 25-33, 35-38, 40-47, 49-56, and 58-61 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 19-23, 25-33, 35-38, 40-47, 49-56, and 58-60 have been allowed. Claims 17, 23, 38, 40, 41, 47, and 52-54 have been amended. Claim 61 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 28, 2004

By:


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